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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 19, 2002

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Federal Networking and Information Technology Research and Development Critical to Global Leadership and Homeland Security

Supplement to President's FY 2003 Budget Released Today

WASHINGTON, D.C. – A special supplement to President Bush's FY 2003 budget released today by the White House underscores the critical role that networking and information technologies developed through federal research investments play in strengthening national, homeland, and economic security, and describes the Administration's FY 2003 investments in networking and information technology research and development.

The report, "Strengthening National, Homeland and Economic Security: Networking and Information Technology Research and Development," highlights the unique contributions made by technologies developed with federal networking and information technology funding – including robotics, remote sensing devices, and computational analysis and visualization capabilities – to the disaster response activities following 9/11. The document also summarizes the FY 2002 accomplishments and FY 2003 research plans of the multi-agency Networking and Information Technology Research and Development (NITRD) Program, which includes a broad range of interdisciplinary technical activities.

"Advanced networking and information technologies developed through federal NITRD investments provide an essential framework for economic strength and national security," said Dr. John H. Marburger, Director, Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP). "Programs such as NITRD will increase the security of our borders, transportation systems, and critical national infrastructures, as well as help assure U.S. leadership in science and engineering."

The proposed NITRD budget of $1.9 billion for FY 2003, a $59 million increase over FY 2002 levels, is part of the Administration's record $111.8 billion request for federal research and development spending. The President's request, the highest federal research and development investment level in history, reflects the Administration's strong commitment to maintaining U.S. preeminence in science and technology and its focus on networking and information technology as a high priority in the federal research and development portfolio.

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Required under the High-Performance Computing Act of 1991 (P.L. 102-194), the report is produced by the Interagency Working Group on Information Technology Research and Development of the National Science and Technology Council, and it is available online at *http://www.nitrd.gov*. For a printed copy of the report, contact the National Coordination Office for Information Technology Research and Development at (703) 292-4873 or nco@itrd.gov.

The NITRD program is the coordinated research enterprise of federal agencies engaged in fundamental research and development in all aspects of large-scale and broadband networking, advanced computing, software, and information management technologies to meet vital federal needs and sustain U.S. global leadership in science and engineering. Participating agencies include:

- Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality
- Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency
- Department of Defense, Office of the Director, Defense Research & Engineering
- Department of Energy National Nuclear Security Administration
- Department of Energy, Office of Science
- Environmental Protection Agency
- National Aeronautics and Space Administration
- National Institutes of Health
- National Institute of Standards and Technology
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- National Security Agency
- National Science Foundation

Congress established OSTP in 1976 with a broad mandate to advise the President and others within the Executive Office of the President on the impacts of science and technology on domestic and international affairs. The 1976 Act also authorizes OSTP to lead an interagency effort to develop and to implement sound science and technology policies and budgets and to work with the private sector, state and local governments, the science and higher education communities, and other nations toward this end. The Director of OSTP serves as co-chair of the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology and oversees the National Science and Technology Council on behalf of the President.

The National Science and Technology Council (NSTC) was established by Executive Order on November 23, 1993. This Cabinet-level council is the principle means for the President to coordinate science, space, and technology across the federal government. The President chairs the NSTC, and membership consists of the Vice President, the Director of OSTP, Cabinet secretaries, agency heads with significant science and technology responsibilities, and other White House officials.

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